

Today's News - Monday, February 2, 2009

- ArcSpace brings us eyeful of Hadid in Antwerp and MAD Architects in Mississauga.
- Is Old Damascus is in danger of losing this endearing character? "This city is being turned into an amusement park."
- With so many talented architects, why is there so much that "offends the eye and mind" in Ghana?
- Pasternack digs deep into the "anti-icon icon": CCTV and the "construction of a conundrum" (one of the best analyses we've seen).
- A French-Vietnamese artist dreams of the city of the future that even architects like.
- Kamin on a "wrong-headed ruling" that "aims a dagger at the heart of Chicago's landmarks law and measures like it around the nation."
- A "living eulogy" for the Garland Jones Building, "the last remaining example of High Modern Architecture in Raleigh" set for demolition.
- Consider it "stunning" or "hideous," apparently the Garland Jones was no joy to work in.
- Hawthorne is none too kind to the new Capitol Visitor Center: "you could hardly invent a more perfect cautionary tale than the one embodied by this grandiose complex... marbled pork."
- A North Myrtle Beach eyesore to become smart growth precedent.
- "Live the Box" competition winners come up with some creative urban multifamily mixed-use projects using shipping containers.
- Bayley is blown away by dRMM's Sliding House.
- Laura Bush is thrilled by choice of Van Valkenburgh as landscape architect for presidential library (now all they have to do is figure out who actually owns the land).
- French architects win competition to design Helsinki Zoo re-do (polar bears included).
- Despite the bleak economy, Maple Grove moves ahead with plans for a stylized band shell and town green.
- "Objectified" gathers the world's top designers in a documentary telling the story of the magic behind the objects we use every day.
- Call for entries: 2009 Dulux Colour Awards (projects must be in Australia).
- We couldn't resist: an 1880s-era house glides across a frozen lake to rescue it from the wrecking ball (shades of Venturi's Lieb House saga?). - Researchers find gossip is good for testing business ideas.

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-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Port House, Antwerp, Belgium
-- Under construction: MAD Architects: The Absolute Towers, Mississauga, Canada

Old Damascus struggles to cope in the new Syria: ...crowded district...is in danger of losing this endearing character...Now, the debate on how much latitude to give private enterprise is gathering steam as authorities try to balance revitalizing the 128-hectare old city with preservationist goals..."This city is being turned into an amusement park"... (AP)- The Daily Gleaner (Canada)

A thing of beauty is a joy forever: I am...surprised that with so many brilliant minds engaged in Architecture, Town and Country Planning...so much offends the eye and mind in our habitat...Now that we have got many talented architects, I expect Ghana and especially Accra, to be a town of beauty. But I am greatly disappointed in what I see. -- T.S. Clerk; David Wilberforce Kwame Dawson- myjoyonline.com (Ghana)

Strange loop: Is Rem Koolhaas's gravity-defying Beijing monument [CCTV] the world's most important building? Alex Pasternack on the construction of a conundrum...OMA's startling design yielded no easy nomenclature...the anti-icon icon... -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)- The National (Abu Dhabi)

French-Vietnamese artist unveils city of the future: Tran Van Liem's vision for a cultural city of the future may be one step closer to fruition as many local architects praised it as a bold and creative vision...has spent 20 years developing the plans for Van Lang City. - VietNamNet Bridge

Disorder in the court: Wrong-headed ruling threatens Chicago's architectural treasures: ...aims a dagger at the heart of Chicago's landmarks law and measures like it around the nation. By Blair Kamin- Chicago Tribune

Op-Ed: Everything Comes At A Price - A Living Eulogy For The Garland Jones Building: ...the last remaining example of High Modern Architecture in Raleigh's downtown core...the only well-dressed representative of that time. By Jon Zellweger/Clearscapes -- Howard Musick (1961) [images]- New Raleigh (North Carolina)

Forget 'stunning' or 'hideous.' How'd the place work? As Wake County prepares to demolish its landmark Garland Jones Building to make way for a courthouse in downtown Raleigh, fans and foes are carrying on a lively debate...But overlooked...is what the building was like to work in. "It really was bad...just overall gloomy." -- Howard Musick (1961) [image]- News & Observer (North Carolina)

New Capitol Visitor Center: not a capital idea: ...when it comes to the aesthetic and financial perils of government-sponsored architecture, you could hardly invent a more perfect cautionary tale than the one embodied by this grandiose complex sunk into the east side of Capitol Hill...an architectural combination uniquely suited to Washington: marbled pork. By Christopher Hawthorne -- RTKL; Alan M. Hantman [images]- Los Angeles Times

North Myrtle Beach eyesore to become smart growth persuasive precedent: ...on its way to becoming a welcoming town center complete with shops and a single family home neighborhood. -- Environmental Concepts [images]- North Myrtle Beach Online.com (South Carolina)

The Shipping Container as Building Block: A design competition challenged architects to use prefabricated containers as housing "modules."... "Live the Box" posed a new and more extensive challenge: creation of an urban multifamily mixed-use project... -- RMJM; Modulaire; Tang & Yang Architects [images]- New York Times

A roof over your head? So last year: Design innovations are showing that houses - and cars - can have flexible shapes...Sliding House...answers an old question in a new way: how can we employ efficient materials and the latest technology to make the very best use of this site? By Stephen Bayley -- dRMM (de Rijke Marsh Morgan) [image, links]- Observer (UK)

Laura Bush enthusiastic about landscape architect for presidential library: However, SMU's ownership of part of the library

grounds is still in dispute. -- Michael Van Valkenburgh- Dallas Morning News

Architects want polar bears on Korkeasaari: Winning entry in competition calls for imposing new entrance building to Helsinki Zoo -- Beckmann-N'Thepe [images]- Helsingin Sanomat (Finland)

Maple Grove moves ahead with town green plans: A stylized bandshell will be a focal point for a lively community gathering place. -- HGA Architects [image]- Minneapolis Star Tribune

The World's Best Gadget Designers Speak in "Objectified": Gary Hustwit gathered the world's top designers for his forthcoming documentary, telling the story of the magic behind the objects we use every day. [links, video]- Gizmag (Australia)

Call for entries: 2009 Dulux Colour Awards (projects must be in Australia); deadline: February 20- Dulux Australia

Land ho! House glides across ice on White Bear Lake: Like a ship, the two-story, 60-ton house seemed to gracefully skim the frozen waters...Without the ice rescue the 1880s-era house would be torn down. [images, video]- Minneapolis Star Tribune

Gossip is good for testing business ideas: Companies should harness water-cooler gossip to test business ideas, researchers have said.- Telegraph (UK)

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